CLAIMS

1. A multi-machine system for inspecting bottles comprising at least one upstream machine and a downstream most machine, wherein each machine performs at least one inspection on a bottle and a bottle is conveyed sequentially through the machines and then to a rejector, comprising

a processor for each machine to determine whether a bottle is defective and should be rejected,

a hardwired connection between each upstream processor and the next downstream processor,

a connection between the downstream most processor and the rejector,

said processors of the upstream machines each comprising means for supplying to the hardwired connection between the processor and the next downstream processor, a bottle rejected signal in the event that either the processor has determined that the bottle is to be rejected, or, where there is an next upstream machine, the processor has received a bottle reject signal from the next upstream machine,

and

said processor of the downstream most machine comprising means for supplying a bottle rejected signal to the rejector in the event that either the processor has determined that the bottle is to be rejected, or the processor has received a bottle reject signal from the next upstream machine.